

COMPETITIVE DANCER PROGRAM

A Guide for Students and Parents About This Handbook

For more than 5 years our studio has been a leader in dance education. We believe that our success comes as a result of providing solid training and quality service, along with an underlying belief in the strength of our organization. We have created this handbook to offer our students and their parents a clear understanding of their commitments and responsibility to the Competitive Dancer Program.

- **Dates and/or expenses listed in this handbook are subject to change. Please check the Team section in the members area of our website for updates.**

Key contact information for The Elite Dance and Performing Arts Center

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General Email: elitedancepac@gmail.com
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Website: www.elitedancepac.com

Key event dates for The Elite Dance and Performing Arts Center:

Dance Intensive Week 1- July 17th – 21st 2017
Dance Intensive Week 2- August 7th – 11th 2017
Team Conditioning- August 28th – 31st 2017
Classes begin – September 5th 2017
Recital - June 2018 TBA
Last Day of classes - June 16th 2018
Nuvo Dance Competition/Convention- January 12th - 14th (Optional)
Starquest Dance Competition- Feb 23rd - 25th San Diego CA (Select Dances)
Adrenaline Competition/Convention -March 9th - 11th Los Angeles, CA (All Dancers, Select Dances)
Hall of Fame Dance Competition- April 6th – 8th Ontario, CA (ALL DANCES)
Spotlight Dance Cup Challenge- April 27th - 29th 2018 Redondo Beach (ALL DANCES)
Dance Intensive Week 1- July 16th - 20th 2018
Dance Camp- July 23rd – 27th 2018
Dance Intensive Week 2- August 6th – 10th 2018
Team Conditioning- August 27th – 30th 2018

The Elite Dance and Performing Arts Center Closure Dates:

Halloween- October 31st
Veteran's Day: November 10th (Friday Only)
Thanksgiving Break: November 22nd-25th
Winter Break: December 18th-January 1nd.
Martin Luther King Jr Day- Jan 15th
President's Day: February 19th
Spring break: March 26th – 31th
Memorial Day: May 29th

FOR OUR DANCERS

Congratulations! You have been accepted into the Competitive Dancer Program. This is an intensive dance track. The first step to becoming a successful dancer is making a solid commitment to your classes, rehearsals, and performances. Strong technique is a key ingredient and class is where you develop that technique. Come to each class prepared to learn and without personal distractions. Class time is your chance to focus on yourself, so try to leave your concerns or worries at the studio door. True progress is made when you look at each class, rehearsal, or performance as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do. Dance full-out, stretch a little further, become more aware of your technique, and make the most of every class.

The Competitive Dancer program is a privilege that dancers and their parents must appreciate and respect. Participation in the program is restricted to dancers who are ready to make achieving their personal best a priority. There will be times when classes, rehearsals, or performances will be scheduled when your non-dance friends or family may be headed to the mall or the movies.

We encourage dancers to be as dedicated to their academic studies as they are to their dance training. If your participation in this program affects your grades or the expectations and goals set by your parents, we cannot allow you to continue in the program.

Reasons why this program might not be a good fit for you:

- You're involved in extracurricular activities that could interfere with your class, rehearsal, or performance commitments.
- You're doing it because you want to keep up with your friends, but you are not passionate about dance nor the commitment.
- You're doing it because your parent(s) want you to.
- You're primarily focused on winning awards.
- You're not fully committed to attending all classes and rehearsals.

Program Benefits

Only a small percentage of the dancers in our Competitive Program will move on to professional dance careers; therefore, the program focuses on educating young people to strive for their personal best in anything they want to accomplish. We achieve our goals for the program by offering young people the chance to:

- Gain a sense of balance in life by managing their commitments to both dance and academics;
- Participate in a physical activity that enhances understanding of the value of a healthy body;
- Develop a sense of confidence when speaking or making a presentation in a public setting, which is also a great benefit in college or job interviews;
- Work with mentors who are focused on the students' success inside and outside of the classroom;
- Enjoy friendships that could last a lifetime and a sense of belonging to an extended family of fellow dancers, teachers, and parents;
- Discover the results of hard work and determination; and
- Develop a lifelong appreciation for the performing arts.

In addition, making a commitment to the policies set forth in this handbook teaches our young people that there are boundaries that must be respected in order to succeed in the program.

FOR THE PARENTS: “WE’RE IN THIS TOGETHER”

We believe that children’s success depends on the support of their parents or guardians. Because your commitment to the process makes an enormous difference, we encourage you to be a part of your child’s dance education.

Our programs rely on a positive atmosphere and educational experience for our faculty, students and their parents. Cooperation between all parents is expected. Showing respect—for other parents, the students, and the faculty—makes an important impression on the children. You are a role model for your child about how to interact with others in a professional setting.

Your child’s presence at all classes is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the lesson of dedication are a big part of our school’s educational process.

Parents and teachers may look at a child’s learning from different perspectives. However, we believe they share a common goal: to ensure that every child receives the best possible training, both physically and mentally. Mutual respect among our faculty and our students’ parents provides the children with the ultimate care and education.

Understanding Dance Education

As a parent, you play an important role in supporting your child financially, but your emotional support is of equal—and perhaps even greater—value. Encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be regardless of what others may achieve. Dance is an individual art form and children need to be allowed to achieve at a pace that’s comfortable. No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training. It’s important to encourage children to focus on themselves, give their all, and be satisfied with their own accomplishments.

Dance education encompasses far more than technique and the steps your children learn. We believe the discipline of dance training gives young people a better understanding of commitment through learning, experiencing the spirit of teamwork, and discovering what they can accomplish through hard work. Our goal is to educate the minds, bodies, and souls of our students, teaching them the skills needed for a successful life, whether or not they stay involved in dance.

- **You play an important role in supporting your child financially, but your emotional support is of equal—and perhaps even greater—value.**

Dos and Don’ts

Some parents may compare their child’s progress or class placement to another child’s. Watch for this behavior in your children as well and encourage them to focus instead on their own accomplishments.

Looking to other students for inspiration is good; however, making negative comparisons distracts children from focusing on becoming stronger dancers. In addition, speaking negatively about your child’s teachers, fellow students, or other parents in front of your child—or other students—could result in problems far beyond your original concerns. Often children will imitate a parent’s behavior with other adults or authority figures.

Children learn important lessons from their teachers and parents, acquiring behavior patterns through their example. Our school's staff takes that responsibility seriously. It's our philosophy to encourage our students to feel, think, and act respectfully toward their peers, the adults in their lives, and themselves.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's dance education (such as progress or class placement), please discuss them with your child's teacher or the director. Talking only to other parents can lead to misinformation and confusion. Please contact the office to set up an appointment; do not approach your child's teacher or the director between or during classes or make contact outside of the school. We will meet with both the student and parent present!

If you do request a conference, please listen carefully to what your child's teachers have to say. They spend a significant amount of time with your child and offer expertise in the field of dance education. You have to trust us for this education to work.

Class or Choreography Placement

The school staff meets regularly to discuss the students' progress and/or placement. We also do mid year reviews and end of the year testing to help decide what level is best for the dancer. It is our policy to offer appropriate opportunities to every child. Placement decisions are derived from many years of teaching experience. Often a child is placed in a particular group or class where he or she will feel confident, in order to promote the development of self-esteem. Some dancers who are placed in a higher level become discouraged, only to lose their passion for dance. Others respond to the challenge of being in a class with dancers who are more proficient by pushing themselves to work harder. Placement is highly individual and the factors that go into the decision are complex.

The director and/or staff are available to discuss class and choreography placement with parents and dancers. Please feel free to request an appointment with the office and a meeting will be scheduled. It is our policy to meet with each student and his or her parents at the same time unless otherwise specified.

We ask that parents refrain from discussing class placement issues with other parents or questioning the faculty between classes.

- **Class placement of students is highly individual and the factors that go into the decision are complex.**

Classes and Attendance

All dancers are expected to attend their regularly scheduled classes in addition to all rehearsals and performances. No more than six (6) absent days per dance season may be missed. Of the six (6) days, no more than three (3) may be missed from their team class/rehearsal. Any team member with poor attendance will be dismissed from the program. Dance requires consistent ongoing training and dancers who excessively miss class will not be able to perform at the same level as those who attend all their classes regularly.

NOTE: After two (2) team practices have been missed in the semester, regardless of the reason (Sept-Jan / Feb-June), a private lesson will be required to rejoin the team class. After the third the dancer will be dismissed from the team.

Excused absences are written requests that receive prior approval from the director. Advance notice of an absence does not mean it is excused. The following are considered “excused” absences:

- Death in the family
- Scheduled school programs or performances required for credit
- Wedding or religious dedication of you or a member of your family
- Seriously ill or infectious with doctors note not allowing attendance to class
- Injury with a doctors note

If the dancer is sick they may NOT come to class and watch, they should be at home resting if they are sick. If they are injured they may NOT watch they should be at physical therapy getting better. The exception would an injury such as a broken leg where the dancer is out for a length of time. However please note that if they are out of dance with a doctors note from class they will not be allowed to perform.

Punctuality is just as important as attendance, please be on time and prepared for class. Two (2) occurrences of tardiness or early departures, exceeding 10 minutes, count as an unexcused absence. Two (2) occurrences of non-participation also count as an unexcused absence.

Dancers will receive a class schedule in the spring of the prior year. The program includes ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary, leaps and turns, hip-hop and acrobatics. Team members may also be expected to participate in additional classes, including master classes. There may be an additional charge for master classes.

All dancers must show respect for their teachers at all times. Inappropriate behavior could result in dismissal from the program.

Class Requirements

The Dance Company

- *Ballet Technique
- *Performance Ballet or Pointe (I-V)
- *Stretch and Conditioning
- *Leaps and Turns
- *Jazz
- *Contemporary
- *Hip Hop
- *Acro / Tumbling - *may be substituted with another technical class*

The Dance Team

- *Ballet Technique
- *Performance Ballet or Pointe (I-V)
- *Leaps and Turns
- *Jazz
- *Acro / Tumbling – *not required, but strongly recommended*

The Hip Hop Crew

- *Hip Hop
- *Hip Hop or Jazz Funk

*Jazz

*Elective Class – *dancers may choose another style of dance for their elective class (Acro, Tap, Ballet etc.)*

Rehearsals

All rehearsals are dedicated to choreography or “cleaning” the choreography. A dancer who misses a rehearsal holds back the progress of the entire group. Repeating the choreography from a previous session for those who were absent takes up valuable rehearsal time, which could result in a performance that is not up to par. When we clean choreography, we may also change it. Dancers who miss a cleaning session may not be properly prepared for an upcoming performance and could end up disappointing themselves, their team, or the school.

An important lesson taught through our Competitive Dancer program is the value of teamwork. Dancers who miss a rehearsal because of a non-emergency circumstance are letting their fellow dancers down in many ways. We expect parents to nurture the values that dance education teaches; therefore, you should never encourage your child to let the group down.

If parents have a conflict that prevents them from taking their children to a scheduled rehearsal, we will be more than happy to arrange transportation with other parents from the same group. Our goal is to help all children make their commitments.

- **Dancers: True progress is made when you look at each class, rehearsal or performance as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do.**

Rehearsal Schedules and Information

Rehearsals are an important part of the commitment to the Competitive Program. All dancers are expected to work hard and arrive early enough to warm up.

Additional rehearsals may be scheduled at the discretion of the teacher/choreographer. All dancers are required to participate.

Rehearsals may be added at anytime. We will schedule them with at least one weeks notice. There will also be additional fees for additional rehearsals to compensate the staff for their time.

No Competitive program dancer may miss more than three (3) rehearsals during the season. A season starts in September and ends after the National competition in July (if participating in Nationals.) There will be no exceptions to this rule. Dancers who need to be excused are required to notify the studio 24 hours before the scheduled rehearsal with a written notice. Any dancer excused from a rehearsal is responsible for learning any missed choreography before arriving for the next rehearsal.

All Competitive program dancers must attend rehearsals in proper dance attire and appropriate shoes.

- **We expect all dancers to be on their best behavior during rehearsals and work as team players at all times.**

Primetime Scheduler

Primetime scheduler is our new scheduling system for private lessons and competition rehearsals. The website is elitedancepac.primetimescheduler.com. Here you will create a username and password. You can then add your students. You will then need to subscribe to your teachers. When the teachers post availability you will be notified and you can book the time slots you want.

If you are in a duet or trio it is up to YOU to correspond with the other team mate and parent to make sure the time works.

If you do not login and set this up you will miss rehearsals and be removed from the number.

Team App

The Team App is forum we use for easy communication between parents, students and teachers during the competitions. You will receive notifications with competition updates and be able to communicate quickly with all your teammates. Just download “Team App” onto your mobile device and set up an account with Elite Dance Center to get started.

Respect

Respect for the school, its teachers and its choreographers is essential.

The teachers and choreographers selected to work with our Competitive program dancers are among the finest and most experienced available. They are selected because of their professionalism and knowledge of what is technically and emotionally right for the dancers.

Guidelines for behavior:

- Leave any personal negativity at the door when entering the studio.
- Arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of every class or rehearsal.
- Proper dancewear and shoes are a must in every class and rehearsal.
- Choreography must never be questioned.
- Please do not speak on behalf of others, every parent and student is expected to voice there own problems and concerns.
- Never attempt to contact teachers or choreographers at home. All contact must be made through the studio’s office.
- Finish every class or choreography session with a thank-you to the teacher or choreographer.
- When wearing your studio jacket or other apparel to non-dance events, be sure that the activities and your behavior reflect positively on you and the studio.

Appreciate the Critique

Listen to each correction given, whether it’s directed to you or another dancer. A correction is an honor; it shows you how much a teacher cares about your progress as a dancer. Always say thank you when a teacher or choreographer offers you constructive criticism. Nothing can stop those students who apply themselves in every class and appreciate their teachers’ knowledge and experience.

Please note all complaints and drama will be documented in your file. Elite will not subject its staff to rude and unwarranted behavior. We will remove the parent and student before Elite will lose its amazing staff.

FOR DANCERS AND PARENTS

Image

The children and parents involved in the Competitive Dancer program participate in many outside activities, all of which reflect The Elite Dance and Performing Arts Center's philosophy.

Please keep the following in mind:

- We never speak negatively about teachers and other dancers.
- We never create conflict with the directors or judges of events in which we participate.
- The school director handles all communication with the directors of our outside activities.
- No parent or dancer may call or question the directors of any event. If you have a concern, please contact the director of our school.
- Dancer and parents should be properly dressed for all events. Do not arrive or leave any event in your dancewear; always wear a cover-up.
- Go out there and show the audience how much you love to dance!

Dress Code Requirements

The Elite Dance and Performing Arts Center maintains a dress code to encourage concentration and a sense of inclusiveness (variations in attire can be distracting and contribute to feelings of inequality). Uniformity in dancewear allows the teachers to assess how well the students are implementing the technique being taught, problems with alignment, and other important aspects of dance training.

- Students should carry their dancewear, shoes, and other belongings in a dance bag. Please print your child's name on the bag as well as on all of its contents.
- Dancewear is to be kept in good repair and laundered on a regular basis.
- Boys age 10 and older must wear a dance belt.
- Watches, jewelry, and safety pins should not be worn to class.
- Dance shoes should never be worn outside.
- Female students should wear their hair tightly secured and styled away from the face; a neat bun is preferred.
- Students are expected to observe good personal hygiene habits. Deodorant is required for student's age 10 and older.

- We have lockers in both the dressing rooms. Students will need to provide their own lock. Students are not allowed to keep stuff in the locker without a lock. Again we are not responsible for lost and stolen items, the students need to take responsibility for their things. This is a public place and many people come in and out.

Class	Boys	Girls
Team Rehearsals	Sweatpants, leggings or tights, T-shirt, Appropriate shoes.	Any colored Leotard, Tights are optional but shorts or leggings must be worn. Crop Tops may be worn. Appropriate shoes.
Ballet	Black sweatpants (or tights for ages 10 and up), white T-shirt, black ballet shoes.	Black leotard, pink tights, pink ballet shoes. (Pink pointe shoes may be required.) Skirts may also be worn.
Jazz	Black sweatpants or tights, white T-shirt, black jazz shoes.	Any colored Leotard, Tights are optional but shorts or leggings must be worn. Leotards only are NOT allowed. Tan jazz shoes.
Tap	Black sweatpants, white T-shirt, black tap shoes.	Any colored Leotard, Tights are optional but shorts or leggings must be worn. Leotards only are NOT allowed. Black tap shoes.
Contemporary	Black sweatpants or tights, white T-shirt, no shoes.	Any colored Leotard, Tights are optional but shorts or leggings must be worn. Leotards only are NOT allowed. Pirouette shoes required.
Acrobatics	Black leggings, white T-shirt, barefoot.	Any colored Leotard, Tights are optional but shorts or leggings must be worn. Leotards only are NOT allowed. Barefoot only
Hip Hop	Comfortable clothing (No Jeans) Hip Hop / Jazz sneakers required.	Comfortable clothing. (No Jeans) Specific black high tops required.

Twirl

The Elite Dance and Performing Arts Center has its very own in house dancewear store! Here you can find everything you need for class: shoes, dancewear, and accessories. You can also order your team apparel and customized Elite dancewear. Twirl is open during Elite's business hours from 2:00pm to 7pm Monday thru Friday, and 9am to 2pm on Saturday.

Additional shoe styles may be required; please check with the school office. Each dancer should have two pairs of each kind of shoe, one for class and one for performances.

- Competitive program dancers are required to wear appropriate dancewear and shoes for all classes and rehearsals. Make sure your shoes are clean and polished for each performance.

Tuition and Other Expenses

Part of the commitment to the Competitive Dancer program is being current with all accounts related to participation.

In an effort to offer all young people the opportunity to experience the Competitive Dancer program, we offer a large tuition discount. With this said, please be on time with your payments and meet all competition deadlines.

Tuition is paid through automatic withdrawal from your credit or debit card. This withdrawal takes place between the 20th and 23rd of each month for the upcoming month. Tuition will be charged directly to your specified VISA, Discover, or MasterCard. If you prefer to pay by semester you may do so. The first semester is from September - February, the second semester is March - June.

We offer a 5% discount on annual tuition that is paid in full by September 30th.

PLEASE NOTE: Tuition is based on the season regardless of how many weeks are in a given month. Tuition payments average out to four of each class in a month. Tuition includes all classes. It does not include any additional choreography or rehearsals.

Team Tuition Rates:

The regular tuition rate applies for students taking up to 8 hours of dance per week. For students taking 9 or more hours of dance per week, a special team rate is available. Other discounts do not apply to the team rates below.

No additional discounts apply, does not include Aerial Arts Program.

One Student	Unlimited	\$325
Family Plan (2 or more)	Up to 8 hours / week	\$325 (\$10.15 per class)
Family Plan (2 or more)	Up to 12 hours / week	\$360 (\$7.50 per class)
Family Plan (2 or more)	Up to 16 hours / week	\$400 (\$6.25 per class)
Family Plan (2 or more)	Up to 20 hours / week	\$425 (\$5.30 per class)

Specialty Numbers:

Based on teacher recommendations, Competitive program dancers will have the opportunity to participate in additional choreography for a specialty number. These numbers are in addition to your team's competition routine and could include the following:

Solos	4 choreography sessions & costume	\$475 per solo
Duos or Trios	4 choreography sessions & costumes	\$275 per dancer

Rates above include choreography, designated rehearsals, music editing, and costume. It does NOT include the competition entry fees or extra rehearsals. It is solely the studio's decision which competitions each Specialty Number will compete in. We are attending about four (4) competitions this season; each specialty number will compete at least twice.

Dancers who participate in extra choreography may need to attend rehearsals on additional days not included in their normal program schedule. We do our best to work with the dancers and their parents when scheduling extra choreography sessions.

All extra choreography will be performed in competitions.

Depending on the performance venue, length of time allotted, or theme of non-competitive performances, we cannot guarantee that all extra choreography will be presented in public performances. Recital performances will include *only* the choreography included with the monthly tuition classes unless otherwise specified by the director.

All students in a specialty number must sign an additional contract.

Competition Fees

- **\$300 Team Fee for all members** (This includes the cost of the dance convention)
- **\$200 Cost per routine** (This includes costume, choreography sessions and the cleaning rehearsals)
- **\$75 Entry Fee per group routine / per competition**

NOTE: We may add up to \$250 in additional costs, per team, for extra rehearsals, events and/or competitions.

A deposit of \$100 is due upon registration. The remaining balance will be split into (5) automatic payments on July 1st, August 1st, September 1st, October 1st, and November 1st.

Competition fees are due in full by November 1st, 2017. Any payments made after October 1st will accrue a 10% late fee each week it is late. We accept cash, checks, or credit card or charge your card on file.

If competition fees are not paid in full by December 1st, your child will be removed from the team.

- **Competition fees are due in full but November 1st. If competition fees are not paid by December 1st, your child will be removed from the team, no exceptions.**

Team Supplies

Clothing

All competition team members are required to have the latest Elite team warm-ups. This includes the Team jacket, Team pants or leggings, and competition shoulder bag. Elite garment bags are optional, but highly recommended. A 10% discount is given when purchasing the team set (jacket, pant and bag). Warm-ups can be purchased in Twirl. We also recommend getting a Dream Duffel if your student has several costumes. This is great for competition and recitals!

Make-Up Kits

In addition to warm-ups, team members must also have Elite make-up kits from Yofi cosmetics. Makeup kits will be available to order online at yoficosmetics.com in November. Every student must have their own unless they are sharing with a sibling. If someone happens to not show up to an event then not only are you out of supplies but will end up borrowing from someone else. The products get used up quickly and it is not appropriate to “Free-load” off of others supplies that they have purchased.

Class Supplies

All team students must also have a stretch band and turn board that will be used in many of their required classes and are also great to use at home for stretching and conditioning.

Costumes

Costume payments are the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian. The typical costs of costumes are \$80 - \$100 per costume. The only costume covered in the team fee is the one for the team your child is on. All other costume payments are still due on time.

Summer Dance Program

The Summer Dance Intensive is a mandatory activity for all Competitive dancers. Team members must attend at least one week of the Summer Dance Intensive. Master and guest teachers, along with The Elite Dance and Performing Arts Center’s staff, will offer two weeklong programs at the studio.

Dance Intensive Week 1	July 17 th – July 31 st
Dance Intensive Week 2	August 7 th – 11 th
Team Conditioning Camp	August 28 th – 31 st

Dancers will be in class from 9am to 4pm Monday - Friday. The discounted team tuition is \$395 per week (regular fee: \$425).

In addition to the Summer Intensive, team members must also attend a mandatory Team Conditioning Camp. This is held the week prior to the start of regular classes, August 28th - 31st 2017 from 4pm to 6pm daily. Two additional hours may be added for Company members only. Tuition for the Team Conditioning Camp is \$99.

➤ All Summer Dance Program tuition is due on June 1st

The Competition Experience

For dedicated dancers, the satisfaction of an excellent performance is all the motivation they need to work harder to continue improving. Don’t judge how you feel about your performance by the size of the trophy or the color of the medal.

The Focus Is Not Simply on Competition

It is our goal to instill in our students a passion for performing rather than merely the desire to win awards. Toward that end, Competitive dancers have performance opportunities other than competitions. They may perform in local community events, special parades, as well as part of other performances in the area. We believe the lessons learned through concert performances are as valuable as the competition experience.

Our solid reputation for quality reflects our attitude toward competition and our goal to develop in each student a genuine respect for dance as an art form. We consider students' participation in competitions not merely part of their dance training; it's also an important part of how we influence their growth as people. With the right focus, the experience gained in competition can be an excellent source of self-confidence. If the dancers feel good about a performance and understand that they become better each time they go onstage, they are truly growing through the competition experience. Hitting that stage and doing the best they can is what it's all about; whether they win—or which award they win—is secondary.

Through participation in competitions, we hope to instill in our students an appreciation for other dancers and schools. We are not out to beat anyone; instead, we hope to motivate both students and faculty by exposing them to the highest caliber of talent available. Only then can we produce the best dancers and teachers possible. For us, competition is an education!

- We believe the lessons learned through concert performances are just as valuable as the competition experience.

General Performance and Competition Policies

Performances and competitions are your opportunity to show the world the results of your dedication and hard work. Here's what you can do to make the most of this opportunity.

- Arrive at performances at least one hour before the scheduled time unless otherwise advised by your teachers.
- Be sure you are properly warmed up.
- Present yourself in a professional manner, with costumes pressed, shoes cleaned, and all accessories accounted for.
- Treat competitors and teachers from other schools with respect.
- Treat the directors and staff of the competition with respect.
- Keep your area of the dressing rooms clean and never bring food or drink where it is prohibited.
- Wear your team warm-ups to all competition events and during the award presentations.
- There may be times where performances are scheduled late. You are expected to be there and participate. We have no control of competition schedules. Dancers ages 10 and up, may be scheduled as late as 12am on some occasions. Although this is rare, please plan accordingly.

Relationships

One of the best parts of being on a dance team is the amazing friendships that form. Please remember that just like at school or any other activity students form stronger bonds with some more than others. Here in the dance studio I do my best to ensure that everyone is getting along and enjoying their time together.

Outside of dance it is not the responsibility of Elite to handle or be involved with any outside gathering. I have zero control on who sleeps at who's house and who is hanging out with who. Please do not bring unnecessary drama into Elite. Elite does not manage the social life of student's or parents.

When traveling I always recommend staying with the majority of the team. If you choose to stay separate then you cannot be upset and feel "Un-included." Sometimes an environment aides in certain activities and it is not anyone's fault if you are not there.

Competition Scheduling

When planning a competition weekend, be prepared for performances on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Once a schedule is prepared you may find that you may not have to attend the entire weekend, but you must be prepared to do so. There are no exceptions.

Approximately one week prior to the event, the competition company will supply our office with an itinerary. Schedules will be emailed to all dancers and their parents as soon as they are received.

We pride ourselves on being an organized, professional school and we do not request changes to the dance competition schedule (except in the case of emergencies).

Competition Critiques

At many of the competition events, the schools receive performance critiques from the judges. These critiques are the property of the school and will be played for the dancers during rehearsal or class time. Soloists will hear their critiques during their rehearsal sessions.

Award Presentations

When presented with an award, always show professionalism by thanking the person who presents you with the award. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated.

Audience Etiquette

Enthusiastic applause is encouraged; however, it is never appropriate to scream or yell out names at a competition event or in any other performance venue.

When in an auditorium, remain seated whenever dancers are performing onstage.

Independent Entries

No dancer may compete in any competition as an independent entry without the permission of the school director.

Cash Scholarships

Soloists will receive a school credit for the amount of any cash scholarship awarded. It will be applied to lessons, costumes, entry fees, or other expenses related to dance training.

Cash scholarships awarded to dancers who perform duos, trios, or ensemble pieces will be deposited in the Competitive Dancer program treasury to be utilized for master classes, guest choreographers, and other activities.

Policy on Solos

It has always been our philosophy to instill a spirit of teamwork among the dancers in the program. A competitive atmosphere is counterproductive to what we want to accomplish in our classrooms or among the dancers.

Together . . .

- We are stronger;
- We learn from each other;
- We share our successes.

Dancing a solo can be wonderful and motivational experience, but it can also be devastating. We have seen dancers who lack confidence attempt their first solo only to end up feeling like a failure. Instead of exhilaration and pride, they experience humiliation and embarrassment. In some cases, these disappointed dancers question whether they want to continue to dance. Is it worth risking all that for a solo?

Solos are limited to advanced dancers who are technically ready and who possess the drive to put in the extra time needed to perfect their performance.

Know When You're Ready

Take a close, honest look at yourself and your dancing. You're ready to solo when:

- You have made a serious commitment to yourself and to dance;
- You're willing to work on your own to spend extra time on your solo;
- You are willing to take your solo apart count by count and make sure you know what needs to happen technically (where your arms are on every count, what the best lines are, and so on);
- You are willing to rehearse your solo full-out all the time in order to build stamina;
- You are technically ready;
- You realize that your obligation to your fellow dancers is priority; and
- You are aware that solo rehearsal time will never interfere with group rehearsals, classes, or performances.

You're not ready to solo when:

- You want to do a solo because your friend is doing one;
- You want to do a solo because your parents want you to do it; or
- You do not have the time to make the commitment.

Music for Solos

Put that Ipod down! You are not going to use the most popular song of the year for your solo, no matter how much you love it and are dying to dance to it! Everyone will be using that song, and you don't want to be the ninth dancer performing to it.

You will work with your teacher/choreographer to determine the right music for your performance. Together you will look for something different that is not often performed at a competition and that suits your personality.

Costume Common Sense

- ✓ Always have a second pair of tights available.
- ✓ Place costumes in a garment bag for travel.
- ✓ Carry hats in a hatbox or container to prevent them from damage.
- ✓ Hang and press costumes before each performance.
- ✓ Place your name in all costumes and shoes.
- ✓ Remove all costumes from their garment bags immediately following the competition to be sure that they are not wrinkled for the next event.
- ✓ Check seams, trim, headpieces, etc. for repairs that must be made prior to the next competition.

POLICIES AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

General Policies

- Parent and students should not enter the office space of the school without being invited in. Use of the school telephone is limited to emergencies only.
- Parents and students should never interrupt a class in session.
- Only water is allowed in the studios. No food, drinks, or gum.
- No cell phones or computers may be used during class time. (This means no emailing, Internet use, or text messaging.)
- Students and parents are restricted from contacting teachers by phone, email, text messages, etc. All communication with teachers or the director must go through The Elite Dance and Performing Arts Center's office.
- Watch what you say in the lobby area, a space intended for the comfort of our students' parents and families. At no time should anyone utilize this area to commiserate with others about their dissatisfaction with the school, its faculty or choreographers, or other students and their families.
- Never speak negatively about teachers, students, or parents.
- All students must show respect for their teachers at all times. Inappropriate behavior could result in dismissal from the studio.

Termination of Enrollment

In certain circumstances, when it is in the best interest of one or more students, it may be necessary for the school owner or director to terminate a student's enrollment. Every effort will be made to correct a

problematic situation before terminating enrollment. Reasons for termination of enrollment include the following:

- Disruptive or dangerous behavior by students and/or their parents
- Abuse of other children, staff, or property
- Inability of The Elite Dance and Performing Art Center's ability to meet the child's needs.

If a Competitive dancer is dismissed or leaves the program, an understudy will replace him or her. The student leaving the team is expected to turn in all costumes to the school office; they will be returned to the student after the last performance of the season.

Student and Parent Use of Social Media

Use of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, blogging, and other online social media vehicles is commonplace. This policy is intended to provide The Elite Dance and Performing Arts Center students and parents with guidelines to eliminate any confusion concerning the use of social media.

- You DO NOT have permission to reveal any information that compromises The Elite Dance and Performing Arts Center. By that we mean you are forbidden to share personal information about the director, the staff, other students or their families, or anything that is proprietary and/or confidential to them or The Elite Dance and Performing Arts Center.
- Students and parents should neither claim nor imply that they are speaking on behalf of The Elite Dance and Performing Arts Center.
- Never post anything that could compromise the self-esteem of students who attend The Elite Dance and Performing Arts Center.
- If you post videos of class or rehearsals, don't post any choreography in its entirety; The Elite Dance and Performing Arts Center owns the copyright to all choreography taught at the studio.
- Respect the law, including those laws governing defamation, discrimination, harassment, and copyright and fair use. As stated in this handbook, parents and students should never post negative comments about other schools or teachers. Also, please do not post negative comments about school activities such as competitions, conventions, and performances or about the directors of those events.
- Ensure that your social networking conduct is consistent with all of the policies contained in this handbook.

Class Visitors

Safety issues and legal responsibilities make it impossible for us to allow students to bring visitors into the classroom. Students should not invite siblings, other relatives, or friends to their classes with the exception of special events such as "Bring a Friend Week" and in-school performances.

Staying Informed

We work hard to make the dance experience organized and fun. Keeping you informed is one of our primary goals. Please read all emails and other school information.

Important updates are emailed out and also printed. The same information and updates are also posted on The Elite Dance and Performing Arts Center's website and Facebook page.

If you have any questions regarding the information distributed, we encourage you to contact the office at **818-704-1490** between the hours of 10am and 7pm.

We answer email on a daily basis, except on weekends. Feel free to email questions to the office at: **elitedancepac@gmail.com**

Website: www.elitedancepac.com

We are constantly updating our website. News, important parent and student information, contact information, and more are available online 24 hours a day.

Members Area: Once you are enrolled at The Elite Dance and Performing Arts Center, You will have access to the members area on our website. Here you can download all current newsletters, policies, and handouts. You can also get all recital information, download class music and videos. We also have a picture sharing section and much more.

Login-elitedance Password-elitedance2017

Customer Portal: Aside from the members area on our website, we also have a customer portal. This is used for payments, and class scheduling. Your login in the customer portal is separate and will require a separate login. Here you can change your billing information, see your child's class schedule and more!

Team Page: Elite will create a private group for each team. There, the parent/student can get all the up to date information on costumes, events and more!

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/theelitedanceandperformingartscenter

Instagram: [elitedancepac](https://www.instagram.com/elitedancepac)

“Like” The Elite Dance and Performing Arts Center page on Facebook to receive daily updates on school events. Please invite your family and friends to “like” the studio.

Please do not post questions on the studio's Facebook page. Instead, please email them directly Elite.

Please remember all dancers are given something they are not given everything!

➤ **A Final Note**

Please remember all dancers are given *something* they are not given *everything!*

WELCOME TO THE COMPETITIVE DANCER PROGRAM! We look forward to an exciting and rewarding dance season!